

206th Combat Communications Squadron

Unit logo



List of commanders

LtCol Richard S. Johnson	1 Jul 96 - 20 Oct 00
Maj Renee S. Blake	20 Oct 00 - 11 Mar 04
LtCol Jeffrey S. Campbell	11 Mar 04 - 31 Mar 08

Activation / Deactivation

176th Combat Communications Flight	1987
206th Combat Communications Flight	1992
206th Combat Communications Squadron	1 Jul 96, deactivated 31 Mar 08

Unit History

Attached below

Awards

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

Order GA-6 1994 – Effective dates – 1 Jan 93 – 31 Jul 94
Order GA-32 1999 – Effective dates 1 Jan 98 – 31 Aug 99
Order GA-32 2002 – Effective dates 1 Sep 99 – 30 Jul 01
Order G-43 2006 – Effective dates 1 Jul 03 – 30 Jun 05
Order G-?? 2007 – Effective dates 31 Aug 05 – 1 Sep 07

Alaska Governor's Distinguished Unit Citation

Signed 2 Mar 08 -- Effective dates 1 Jul 96 -- 31 Mar 08

Mission Statement

Adopted 22 Dec 04

The squadron's mission is to provide crucial information technology services worldwide. We provide full spectrum communications support and services using the latest technology to any customer: air, joint or coalition forces, as well as lend military support to civil authorities in times of crisis. The unit is a key asset in providing both Pacific Air Forces and the State of Alaska a communications team that can establish full communications capabilities from any location and in any environment. We train to rigorous standards all the while promoting a strong team environment and fostering engaging career and educational opportunities.

206th Combat Communications Squadron

Unit History

Elmendorf AFB, Alaska

The 206th Combat Communications Squadron (CBCS) can trace its distinguished history back to 1987 as the 176th Combat Communications Flight located on Kulis Air National Guard Base. Under this designation, the unit was charged with the support of a Collocated Operating Base (COB) within the NATO theater. During this period, the unit participated in various CONUS-based exercises in preparation for execution of the European mission. The unit attended formal training at George AFB in May 1987, deployed to Prince William Sound to support the Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1989, traveled to Nordholz Naval Air Station in the Federal Republic of Germany to support NATO Exercise CORONET INDIGO in September 1989, deployed to Bergstrom AFB, TX for an operational readiness inspection in September 1991, deployed to Hulbert Field to support the 176th Security Police Squadron in an air base defense exercise in March 1992, then returned to Bergstrom AFB in April 1992 to hone their operational readiness capabilities for future tactical communications inspections.

In 1992, the military went through restructuring and due to the changing world situation the 206th Combat Communications Flight was formed to support the 11th Air Force during deployed wartime missions. Capt Richard S. Johnson was selected as the commander to lead the unit from its infancy to a cohesive, well-oiled contingency element. The unit became a PACAF-gained combat communications unit effective 1 April 1993 and was relocated to Elmendorf Air Force Base. During this time frame, the squadron received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (AFOUA) for the period 1 January 1993 to 31 July 1994.

On 1 July 1996, the unit was re-designated as the 206th Combat Communications Squadron. The unit had been annually supporting Alaska Command (ALCOM) during NORTHERN EDGE exercises since 1995, bolstering the air sovereignty of the United States and homeland defense missions. While reporting administratively to the State of Alaska and subsequently the 176th Wing, the squadron came under the operational umbrella of the 201st Combat Communications Group, Hawaii ANG, located at Hickam AFB, Hawaii.

In an effort to maintain combat readiness, the 206 CBCS regularly supported Joint Chiefs of Staff exercises such as NORTHERN EDGE in Alaska, COBRA GOLD in Thailand, ULCHI FOCUS LENS in Korea, and TANDEM THRUST in Guam. The unit also directly supported the 172d Brigade with portable satellite radios for Operation GERONIMO STRIKE in U-Tapao, Thailand. Additionally, the unit provided the State of Alaska with single channel radios to support the 210th Rescue Squadron and the US Coast Guard in Valdez, AK. In recognition of the superior dedication and service, the unit earned its second AFOUA for the period 1 January 1998 to 31 August 1999.

Over time, the unit's primary mission evolved to support Pacific theater communications requirements. The principal means of this support was through the employment of two satellite communications (SATCOM) terminals: the TSC-

85B and TSC-152. This equipment provided both a large hub terminal and a smaller spoke terminal, giving the unit maximum flexibility to meet a variety of missions. In addition, the unit was one of the first in the Air National Guard to receive and deploy the Theater Deployable Communications Integrated Communications Access Package (TDC ICAP). The TDC ICAP suite offered voice, data and message services. Additionally, the unit deployed portable satellite radio terminals for command and control, a video teleconference suite and a Global Broadcast Receive suite, providing CNN, weather, imagery and other broadcast services. Eventually the TSC-152 was replaced with the Air Force's newest tri-band satellite spoke terminal, the USC-60.

In October 2000 the 206 CBCS saw its first change of command when Lt Col Johnson passed the guidon to Capt Renee S. Blake. Continuing the tradition of excellence, the squadron received its third AFOUA for the period 1 September 1999 to 30 July 2001.

In December of 2001, shortly after the 9/11 tragedy, unit members volunteered to deploy to Southwest Asia to such places as Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates to participate in Operation ENDURING FREEDOM / SOUTHERN WATCH. While there, they endured many tense moments and austere conditions while providing excellent communications support to combat actions.

In November of 2002, unit personnel deployed to Tsuigi AB, Japan to support Exercise KEEN SWORD to provide SATCOM, voice, data, technical control and systems control (SYSCON).

In April of 2003, the squadron deployed to the US Naval Forces Marianas, Guam, in support of Exercise TANDEM THRUST. They provided SATCOM, voice, data, technical control, video services and SYSCON. The very next year they deployed to Korat, Thailand, to participate in Exercise COBRA GOLD to provide the very same communications support. In each of these deployments, the joint and coalition customers raved about the outstanding communications services and support provided to these crucial exercises.

On 12 March 2004, the squadron underwent another change of leadership when Major Jeffrey S. Campbell assumed command. The unit continued to earn accolades from the highest levels and once again garnered the AFOUA for the period 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2005.

In June of 2005, the squadron again stepped up to support Exercise NORTHERN EDGE, which had evolved into a key homeland security / homeland defense posture with input and oversight from both ALCOM and US Northern Command. The squadron provided the network, voice and data connectivity for the Alaska National Guard's first-ever establishment of a Joint Operations Center, implementing crucial information technology services to this important function.

In early 2006, several unit members volunteered to assist their neighbors in the Matanuska-Susitna borough whose homes were threatened by rising flood waters. Squadron personnel led teams in filling sandbags and shoring up river banks, protecting property and performing one of the core missions of the National Guard.

The squadron also deployed members in support of Operation JUMP START, supporting the US Border Patrol in their mission of securing the sovereign boundary of the United States. 206th personnel were key players in providing communications, supply and power production activities to the National Guard and Border Patrol contingents in Arizona and New Mexico for this important tasking.

Later that same year, unit members once again volunteered to deploy to Southwest Asia to support the Air Expeditionary Force in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM and the Global War on Terror. While deployed, they provided key command and control capabilities in support of over 30,000 combat sorties across the theater in the face of hostile fire. The deployed commanders at their locations provided feedback that the 206th troops were top-notch, and they greatly appreciated the superb efforts of these personnel.

The 206th Combat Communications Squadron in its various incarnations has provided vital communications support over the last 21 years. The squadron always strived to provide flawless communications to their customers in any environment, from the polar regions to Europe to the jungles of the Pacific to the barren desert of Southwest Asia. From its earliest days, the unit played a key role in expeditionary activities and provided service to any customer, regardless of uniform: joint, coalition, active and reserve component. In this era of transformation, the squadron's guidon will be cased, equipment redistributed, and its personnel transferred to other units and missions, but the legacy of the 206 CBCS will live on as a testament to the dedication and devotion of its personnel to the Alaska Air National Guard and the United States of America.